

GLOSSARY

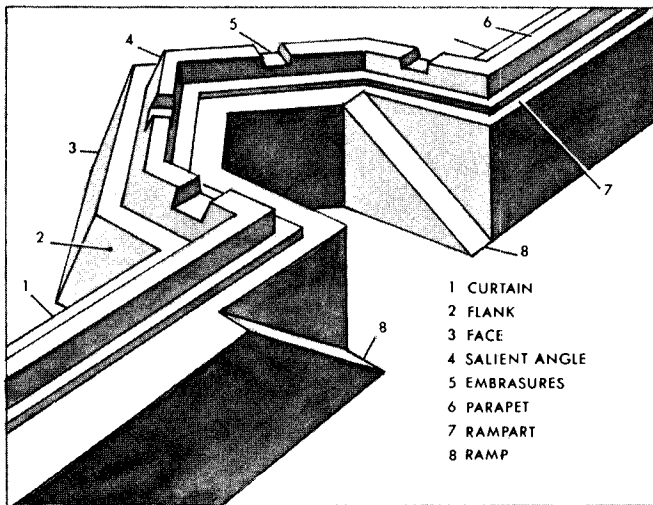
AAA—"Triple A" priority rating; during World War II, this was the highest priority designation which a project could be given.

APPLICATEUR—French term for the craftsman expert in the laying of "mastic" or asphaltic tar to protect and waterproof fortifications. Both the term and the artisan were much in use in 19th century America.

APRON—The extensive paved part of an airport located immediately adjacent to the terminal area or hangars and used for loading, unloading and parking aircraft.

ASPHALTIC CONCRETE—Graded aggregate (gravel-sized particles of crushed stone) bonded together into a solid mass by the addition of asphaltic cement. It is a durable, skid resistant, and economical surfacing material.

BASCULE—Drawbridge, usually of two leaves which open upward by hinging at the shoreward ends.



BASTION—An element of fortification that remained dominant for about 300 years before becoming obsolete in the 19th century. A projecting work consisting of two flanks and two faces terminating in a salient angle, it permitted defensive fire in front of neighboring bastions and along the curtain connecting them.

BATTERY—The basic tactical and administrative artillery unit, usually consisting of from two to six pieces, with the necessary personnel, transportation, communication, and equipment.

- BERM**—A relatively narrow, horizontal or gently sloping man-made bench or shelf, generally part-way up a slope.
- BOW THRUSTER**—A device to assist in maneuvering and docking a vessel; a power-driven propeller located in a transverse tube at the forward end of a ship, to provide lateral thrust at that point.
- C.A.A.**—Civil Aeronautics Authority—Established under the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 as an independent agency under an Administrator authorized to encourage development of civil aeronautics and air commerce and establishment of civil airways, landing areas, and other air navigation aids and facilities; transferred to Federal Aviation Agency by act of Congress, 23 August 1958.
- CANTONMENT**—A group of more or less temporary structures for housing troops.
- “CAPEHART ACT” HOUSING**—Armed services housing program under which almost 100,000 units of government-owned, government-built military family housing were under construction by the end of 1958; with an average cost of \$16,500 per unit (at a legislated cost limit range of from \$12,000 for enlisted mens’ quarters to \$20,000 for a general’s house). Designed as both supplement and successor to the Wherry Act, Capehart Housing answered many of the objections raised to the earlier program.
- CASEMATE**—A fortified, usually masonry position or chamber, in which cannon or other guns could be placed to fire through embrasures. (From the Italian *casa matta*—“mad house.”)
- CHEVAUX-DE-FRISE**—(“Frisian horses”)—obstacles composed of barbed wire or iron spikes attached to a wooden frame, used to block enemy advancement.
- COLD-DRAWN EXTRUSION**—A process whereby metal is drawn through a die and shaped, without prior heating.
- “COPPERHEAD”**—A political epithet applied to Northerners who sympathized with the Confederacy during the Civil War; so called because of an alleged resemblance to the venomous copperhead snake, which does not rattle and strikes from concealment.
- C.O.R.**—A Contracting Officer’s Representative was given the authority to act on behalf of the contracting officer in all matters pertaining to the fulfillment of that contract, except changes in contract specifications, or actions which would result in the default or termination of the contract. Each engineer district was granted C.O.R. inspection responsibility for all contracts with firms located within district limits.

COST-PLUS-FIXED FEE CONTRACT—Essentially a contract for service, in which the contractor was reimbursed for all legitimate expenses except home office overhead, executive salaries, and interest on borrowed money; for his services, he was paid a fee, determined at the time of negotiation, based on the original estimate of cost, and not subject to alteration except in the case of a major change in the scope of the project. It was employed most frequently on projects where urgency, rather than cost economy, was an overriding factor.

C.Q.M.—Constructing Quarter Master—That semi-autonomous branch of the Quartermaster Corps responsible for the greater part of the military construction mission in the 1920's and '30's.

CULM—Coal dust and dirt; waste from anthracite coal mines.

DISAPPEARING CARRIAGE—A carriage for heavy coast guns on which the gun is raised above the parapet for firing and upon discharge is lowered automatically behind the parapet for protection.

DISPOSAL AREA—A tract of land or water enclosed by dikes or bulkheads for deposit of spoil material. Area is equipped with drains to aid settling and compaction of the solids.

DREDGE—Any of various machines equipped with scooping or suction devices used in deepening harbors and waterways and in underwater mining; or a boat or barge equipped with such a machine.

DWT—Dead Weight Tons.

EN BARBETTE—A mound of earth or specially protected platform on which guns were mounted to fire over a parapet.

ENGINEER UTILITY ITEMS—These items of engineer equipment, procured by and for the use of engineer troops, included pumps; electric power generator sets; knocked-down metal and fabric storage tanks; industrial gas-generating equipment; water purification units; fire-fighting equipment and refrigeration equipment.

E.S.C.O.—The Engineer Supply Control Office, in St. Louis, served as a coordinating point, and central clearing house for all military engineer supply requisitions, during and after the Korean conflict.

ESTUARY—That part of river where its currents are met and affected by tidal action; a tidal channel.

FASCINE—Bundle of sticks used in reinforcing fortifications.

FLOOD—A condition arising from excessive accumulation of water in streams and other bodies of water, causing them to overflow and inundate flood plains and adjacent areas.

FLOOD PLAIN—The land adjoining a stream or other body of water that is subject to flooding from overbank flow.

- FROG**—A device on intersecting railroad tracks that permits wheels to cross the junction.
- INCLINED PLANE**—A boat railway used in supplement of locks to surmount extreme heights on the early canals. Various versions of cable-drawn rail cars transported the canal boats between water levels.
- INDUSTRIAL MOBILIZATION PLANNING PROGRAM**—A program begun in the late 1940's to contact essential industries and prepare lists of potential suppliers of engineer utility items, in the event of a national mobilization ("M" day).
- ITEM PLANT MANUAL**—A manual designed to instruct and guide government inspectors in the proper manner of examining those factories which were parties to government contracts. They were only to be used to train the inspectors, not to conduct actual inspections.
- LIGHTERING**—A procedure in which a large cargo vessel unable to navigate in shallow water, transfers part or all of its cargo to smaller vessels (lighters), which in turn convey the cargo ashore. VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) supertankers often have to lighter in American harbors, which lack the minimum depths necessary to handle the giant ships.
- MASTIC**—Asphaltic tar used as a protective coating on cement or masonry construction.
- MEGALOPOLIS**—The East Coast's rapidly developing super-city; urban-industrial saturation of the land belt between Washington, D. C. and Boston, Mass.
- PARAPET**—An earthen or stone embankment protecting soldiers from enemy fire.
- PLANE OF REST**—A horizontal plane below which the action of the sea is assumed to be so small that it may be ignored. (In studies of the old Delaware breakwater assumed at 12 feet below mean low water).
- PONTON**—In military usage, a float, often in the form of a boat, used to provide buoyancy for the superstructure and imposed loads of a float bridge; not to be confused with *pontoon*, a completely inclosed, water-tight, often pneumatic structure attached to an aircraft to give it buoyancy and stability when in contact with water.
- PROCUREMENT**—Includes purchasing, renting, leasing, or otherwise obtaining supplies or services. It also includes all functions that pertain to the obtaining of supplies and services, including description (but not determination) of requirements, selection and solicitation of sources, preparation and award of contract, and all phases of contract administration.

REDOUBT—A small, often temporary defensive fortification; or a reinforcing earthwork or breastwork within a permanent rampart.

RIFT—A shallow area in a waterway; probably dialectal variant of reef—a ridge of rocks, sand or coral that rises to or near the surface of a body of water.

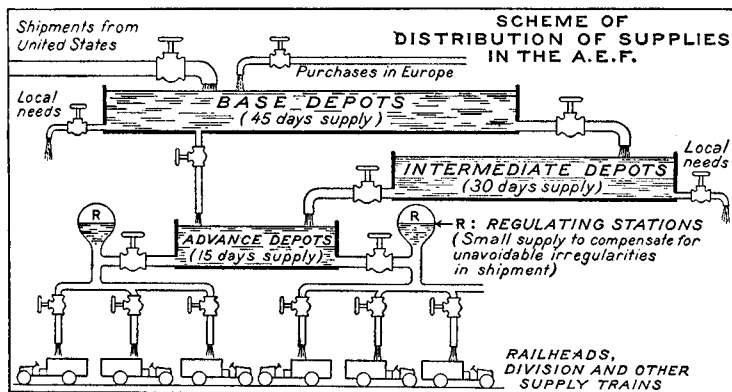
RIPRAP—A protective shell of random stone laid on the slopes of dikes, dams and channels to prevent erosion due to water motion. Generally installed on compacted surfaces, it may be hand-placed or machine-dumped and employs pieces of unfinished stone in the general weight range of one pound to about 10 tons.

RUBBER DREDGING SLEEVE—Rubber hose used to connect lengths of metal pipe from dredge to shore; an item procured Corps-wide by the Philadelphia Engineer District.

SAPPERS—Military engineers engaged in the digging of “saps” or tunnels to undermine enemy fortifications, preliminary to the placing of explosive charges by “miners” or demolition experts. At Valley Forge, General DuPortail suggested that the sappers . . . should be instructed in everything that relates to the Construction of Field works—how to dispose of the Earth—to cut the Slopes—face with Turf or Sods—make fascines—arrange them properly—cut and fix Palisades &ca.”

SCARP—A nearly vertical, sometimes walled side of a ditch below the parapet of a fortification.

SLOPE OF STABILITY—Angle of a structure, which, through the action of the elements, has attained a “permanent” position.



S.O.S. (Services of Supply)—An acronym for the masthead organization under which all supply units of the A.E.F. in World War I were grouped.

Originally known as the Line of Communications, it included all supply activities and installations up to the Zone of Operations. The appended diagram from General Pershing's war memoirs illustrates the system in operation.

SPOIL—Refuse material removed from a stream bed or other excavation.

STRAND—Land bordering a body of water, especially the area between tide marks.

SUPPLY—In an engineer context, supply means all property except land or interest in land. It includes public works, buildings, and facilities; ships, floating equipment, and vessels of every character, type, and description, together with parts, and accessories thereto; aircraft and aircraft parts, accessories, and equipment; machine tools; and the alteration or installation of any of the foregoing.

TECHNICAL MANUAL—A manual which sets forth the maintenance and operating procedures of the equipment procured.

THOROFARE—On local navigation charts, a regional designation for the narrow winding courses the natural channel takes through the marshland reaches behind the barrier beaches of the New Jersey coast.

UNIT INTEGRITY—A military training concept in which a particular unit lives, messes and works as a separate functional organism; designed to develop *esprit de corps* or group responsibility among members of that unit.

VECTOR—An organism that carries disease-causing agents from one host to another.

VITRIFIED CLAY—Clay which has been exposed to intense heat, resulting in a compacted, glassy ceramic surface; used in making clay pipe.

“WHERRY ACT” HOUSING—The title VIII housing program, Public Law 221 of the 81st Congress, was designed to assist in relieving the acute shortage and urgent need for family housing which existed at or in areas adjacent to military installations. They were privately funded, and rented to military personnel at what was ultimately determined to be too high a level to attract the military on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, they were found to be generally below the standards of public quarters built with appropriated funds. Purchase by the military was recommended in 1956.